

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 PM-03 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 /084 W

----- 076368

R 061135Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3898

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2509

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, ETRD, DR

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN MULTINATIONAL FLEET (NAMUCAR)

REF: A) SANTO DOMINGO 1771

B) SANTO DOMINGO 1656

1. THE DR FAILED TO SIGN THE FINAL ACT AT SAN JOSE CREATING NAMUCAR,
AND THE QUESTION OF ITS ULTIMATE MEMBERSHIP SEEMS TO DEPEND IN PART
UPON FINANCING. TWO BROTHERS WHO WERE DELEGATES TO THE SAN JOSE
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MEETING HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN STATEMENTS TO THE SANTO DOMINGO

PRESS, ONE RECOMMENDING AND THE OTHER OPPOSING THE GODR'S JOINING.

2. ING. FERNANDO PERICHE VIDAL, DIRECTOR OF THE GODR'S CENTER FOR EXPORT PROMOTION, HEADED THE DOMINICAN DELEGATION TO SAN JOSE AND PUBLICLY FAVORS DOMINICAN MEMBERSHIP, ALTHOUGH HE STATES PRIVATELY HE DOUBTS THAT PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER WILL BE WILLING TO PUT UP \$3 MILLION TO JOIN. JUAN PERICHE VIDAL, PRESIDENT OF THE SHIPPERS' ASSOCIATION OF SANTO DOMINGO, FOLLOWED HIS BROTHER INTO PRINT BY ONE DAY IN SAYING THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH TRAFFIC IN THE CARIBBEAN TO JUSTIFY ADDITIONAL MARITIME SERVICE. JUAN PERICHE ALSO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PUERTO RICANS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SAN JOSE IN VIEW OF THE RECENT FOUNDING OF A SHIPPING LINE BY THE PUERTO RICAN GOVERNMENT.

3. FERNANDO PERICHE, WHO IS SOMETHING OF A NATIONALIST BUT ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT US ATTITUDES, CALLED UP THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR BEFORE DEPARTING FOR SAN JOSE TO INQUIRE ABOUT US LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO TRADING AND SHIPPING WITH CUBA. HE HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY TO EMPHASIZE THAT NAMUCAR IS NOT RPT NOT TO BE GIVEN ANY KIND OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OVER PRIVATE SHIPPERS BY ITS MEMBER-GOVERNMENTS.

4. IT IS APPARENT THAT FERNANDO PERICHE STILL HOPES THAT THE GODR WILL JOIN SOMETIME DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS AFTER FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, FINANCE SECRETARY CARLOS SELIMAN IS OPPOSED TO THE PROJECT. PERICHE SAYS THAT INASMUCH AS THE INITIAL GLOBAL INVESTMENT OF \$30 MILLION IS FIXED REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBER-STATES, THE QUOTA FOR EACH MEMBER GOES DOWN AS MORE JOIN UP.

5. FERNANDO PERICHE TOLD THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AFTER RETURNING FROM SAN JOSE THAT HE DOUBTED THAT THE VENEZUELANS WOULD FINANCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT EARLIER AN OFFICIAL IN THE MEXICAN OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, CERVANTES RIOS, HAD JOURNEYED TO CARACAS AND HAD RECEIVED AN ORAL COMMITMENT FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ IN THIS REGARD, BUT PERICHE ADDED THAT HE RECEIVED A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT READING FROM VENEZUELAN FINANCE MINISTER HURTADO WHO WAS IN SANTO DOMINGO FOR THE IDB MEETING MAY 18-21. HURTADO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT NO VENEZUELAN MONEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE, EITHER THROUGH THE SPECIAL FUND IN THE IDB OR OTHERWISE, CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR FINANCING NAMUCAR OR ANY SHIPPING VENTURES.

6. BEFORE SAN JOSE THE DOMINICAN SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TOLD THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT THE DR HAD BEEN QUOTE OFFERED UNQUOTE THE PERMANENT SITE FOR NAMUCAR BY THE VENEZUELANS WHO FEARED IT WOULD GO TO COLOMBIA OR MEXICO. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS, FERNANDO PERICHE THIS WEEK CONFIRMED THE QUOTE OFFER BY THE VENEZUELANS UNQUOTE.

7. PERICHE ADDED THAT THE COSTA RICANS HAD BEEN QUOTE VERY CLEVER
UNQUOTE IN RAILROADING THROUGH THE LOCATION OF THE TEMPORARY SEAT
IN SAN JOSE BEFORE OTHERS COULD FOCUS ON IT. VENEZUELA, PANAMA,
AND JAMAICA HAD ALSO WANTED IT, HE SAID. PERICHE FELT THE DR'S
CANDIDACY FOR THE SITE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT DIMMED BY THE DOMINICAN
MEMBERSHIP'S BEING UP IN THE AIR. HE ALSO SAID HE FELT IT WOULD
NOW RPT NOW BE DIFFICULT EVER TO GET IT REMOVED FROM SAN JOSE EVEN
THOUGH HE CONSIDERED THAT A VERY POOR LOCATION.
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